

Land reform and Open Source

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Invitation by Kultivator (Öland, SE) to present in seminar on 'Land Reform and Open Source' at Kalmar Art Museum, in context of their 'Banns of Marriage' programme: <https://www.kultivator.org/706/#openland>

Presentation notes:

Connections between open-source and land:

- enclosure within capitalist system to make communal use-space: power to make own licenses within own structures
- information-sharing (immaterial)
- releasing source-code with the 'product' (pieces of land shared + information about related ecosystem)
- soft vs hard ware
- legal differences of ownership
- rituals encouraging & reinforcing beliefs
- everyman's (leisure) right: access to land and limited resources (berries, fish, mushrooms are not economically important)

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PERSPECTIVE

My creative practice is that of an artist-organiser, cultural producer and independent researcher.

strengths in communications, organisation, and the ability to bring together of unexpected elements and components producing new imaginations and potential..

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EXAMPLE OF HERBOLOGIES/FORAGING NETWORKS

The Herbologies/Foraging Networks programme of events, focused in Helsinki (Finland) and Kurzeme region of Latvia, explores the cultural traditions and knowledge of herbs, edible and medicinal plants, within the contemporary context of online networks, open information-sharing, biological and hydroponic technologies.

The traditions of finding and knowing about wild food in the local Nordic environment are slipping away from the current generation. How can one attract their attention: With books, online maps, workshops, mobile-guided tours, open-source information or DNA code? Or learn how to grow them yourself, over the dark winter months?

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Imagining connections between the subjects, and creative approaches to organising participation in realising those connections.

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OPEN SOURCE DEFINITION

"Open source is an approach to the design, development, and distribution of software, offering practical accessibility to a software's source code.

Some consider open source as one of various possible design approaches, while others consider it a critical strategic element of their operations"

Open source doesn't just mean access to the source code

What does it mean to be thinking, doing, being open?

What does it mean to be thinking, doing, being closed?

Transparent

Meaning that you can see inside it, study it or understand it.

Participatory

People can become involved in a substantive way. They can contribute to and shape the open thing in question.

Flexible, malleable, editable

The people involved can change, evolve or improve whatever it is they are gathered around.

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SOURCE CODE

Explore the relationship for example between 'parcels' of land (re-)distributed and the 'source-code' of information about it.

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KINS DOMAIN

I would like to take case example of "Kin's Domain" land reform movement in Russia to explore where open-source information-sharing might be useful or applied.

The utopian 'back-to-land' Anastasia/Ringing Cedars movement from Russia by Moscow-based Siberian writer Vladimir Megre.

I know about it from communications with people in the Finnish eco-village scene,

and how it is communicated to the english speaking from world former CIS/Soviet states

as a starting point for exploring connections, or importantly practicalities.

Basic summary of a Kin's domain as proposed by Vladimir Megre' *Anastasia* movement..

[2020 update: See more basic info here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ringing_Cedars_%27_Anastasianism#Kinship_homesteads & Sergey Dmitriev's report on back-to-land movement in Russia (2020): <https://medium.com/@sergeydmtriev/eco-villages-kin-domains-and-new-farmers-in-russia-4f56fa610a45>]

A Kin's Domain is a parcel of land for the permanent residence of a family, one hectare (100 m x 100 m)

on which a family can build its house, plant an ancestral tree, its own forest, orchard and garden, and construct a pond.

The perimeter of a Kin's Domain is enclosed by a hedge of forest plants - cedar, coniferous and deciduous trees, and shrubs.

Based on agro-forestry permaculture principles.

Every willing family is offered free of charge one hectare of land for lifetime use

with the permanent right of inheritance (and no right to sell or rent) for the purpose of establishing their own 'Kin's Domain'.

The produce grown on the domain, as well as the domain itself, is not subject to any form of taxation.

Taps into nostalgia for land-based living rather than post-Soviet apartment living:

'Everything at hand' rather than distributed into several locations (living space, cellar storage, bathing water, fresh air, food production)

A kin's settlement is a group of closely situated kin's domains,

whose owners have become united in a general partnership for the joint construction of a kin's settlement, for the creation of the appropriate infrastructure for administrative, educational, medical, cultural, sporting, and other social establishments and institutions.

Grassroots community building.

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QUESTIONS TO THE AUDIENCE..

Q: What would you want to know before investing in a Kin's domain?

Q: What might be the 'source-code' of the site that comes with the land?

Things described in examples..

Who are the people involved
What infrastructures are nearby
What are Local species: flora and fauna

How about the local ecosystem that you are investing your self, family and future generations in..

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WHAT ARE THE NATURAL/material aspects of the area?

****Influences/Input forces or energies going into the ecosystem****

Energy (Sunlight)
Hydrospheric (Water)
Abiotic (Minerals)
Migrant biotic (living organisms)
Local pollution

****Components of the local ecosystem****

Biotic population (living organisms)
Plants & vegetation
Mammals
Birds
Humans
Fish
Micro-organisms
Amphibians
Fungi
Molucssus
Insects
Abiotic (Mineral) features
Hydrospheric (Water) features

Drainage, Aspect of the land (slope)
Soil chemical/nutrient composition

****Output materials/energies****

Biomass materials
Energy
Water
Migrant biotic population

WHAT ARE THE SOCIAL, historical, cultural and political aspects of the site?

****Social, historical, cultural and political influences****

Social-organisational human influences
Organisations of people
Financial/sponsors

****Present****

Habitats, shelter, buildings
Social-organisational meeting places

WHAT ARE THE INFORMATIONAL aspects..

Information sharing culture

Who is knowledgeable about what?

Who is doing what in that area?

Is there published information: books, archives, websites about the land

map data, weather data, wind data, soil ph data, soil nutrient,

sensors located on site?

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HOW ARE YOU / WE GOING TO GATHER SUCH SOURCE-CODE FOR PARCELS OF LAND ?

**SO THAT PEOPLE CAN HAVE THE TRANSPARENCY OF INFORMATION NECESSARY
TO PARTICIPATE IN LAND-REFORM ?**

**IT WILL TAKE SOME OF THE MEASURES OF
COOPERATION, IDEALISM, CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES AND GENEROSITY
IN INFORMATION SHARING**

THAT WE HAVE HEARD ABOUT THIS EVENING